

INQUIRE=DOC7D

ITEM NO=00141376

ENVELOPE

CDSN = LGX635 MCN = 89004/12588 TOR = 890041023

RTTUZYUW RUEKJCS0227 0041024-UUUU--RUEALGX.

ZNR UUUUU

HEADER

R 041024Z JAN 89

FM JCS WASHINGTON DC

INFO RUEALGX/SAFE

R 040955Z JAN 89

FM FBIS VIENNA AU

TO AIG 4621

RUCBSAA/FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

RUDHAAN/CDRUSATAC AHS VA//DI//

RUDOMKE/FBIS LONDON UK

RUEHND/VOA NEW DELHI IN

RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

ACCT FBAU-EWDK

BT

CONTROLS

UNCLAS 2Y/LD MWR

SERIAL: AU0401095589

BODY

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

COUNTRY: SFRY

SUBJ: TAKE 1 OF 3 -- AFGHAN DEFENSE MINISTER INTERVIEWED

SOURCE: ZAGREB DANAS IN SERBO-CROATIAN 20 DEC 88 PP 55-57

TEXT:

(((REPORT ON AN "EXCLUSIVE" INTERVIEW WITH SHAHNAWAZ TANAL, MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE OF AFGHANISTAN, BY MIROSLAV LAZANSKI: "WE CAN COPE WITHOUT THE SOVIETS" -- DATE AND PLACE NOT GIVEN)))

(((TEXT))) KABUL (FROM DANAS' SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT) -- THE BIG EUROPEAN-STYLE YELLOW BUILDING, THE DAR UL AMAN ((SPELLING OF NAME AS PUBLISHED)) PALACE OF THE FORMER KING AMMANULLAH, IS, TOGETHER WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE, PROBABLY ONE OF THE PRETTIEST BUILDINGS IN KABUL. SITUATED ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE TOWN IN A FAIRLY POOR AREA, ON THE SLOPES OF THE SURROUNDING HILLS, THE PALACE LOOKS ALMOST UNREAL. HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE SOLDIERS OUTSIDE IT, IT WOULD LOOK LIKE A SPA IN THE WILDERNESS. THIS IS THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OF THE REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN. ENTERING THE OFFICE OF THE DEFENSE MINISTER OF A COUNTRY WHICH HAS BEEN IN WAR FOR 9 YEARS USUALLY MEANS GOING THROUGH NUMEROUS CHECKS AND GUARDS. HOWEVER, I DID NOT NOTICE ANYTHING OF THIS KIND. OF COURSE, I NOTED MORE THAN WHAT IS NORMAL FOR A MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. IN CONTRAST TO USUAL NIGHT CHECKS IN THE TOWN, THE CHECKS HERE WERE DISCRETE. COLONEL GENERAL

SHAHNAWAZ TANAI, MINISTER OF DEFENSE, IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN THE KABUL GOVERNMENT AFTER PRESIDENT NAJIBULLAH. FOR MANY OBSERVERS, AS THE HEAD OF THE ARMY, GEN TANAI IS IN FACT THE KEY PERSON, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE "DEPARTURE" OF GENERAL MUHAMMAD GULABZOY, FORMER MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND HEAD OF THE SARANDOI ((SPELLING OF NAME AS PUBLISHED)) ORGANIZATION (PEOPLE'S MILITIA), TO BE AMBASSADOR TO MOSCOW. TANAI IS VERY YOUNG FOR A DEFENSE MINISTER. HE WAS BORN IN 1950. ("YOU KNOW, 38 YEARS IN YUGOSLAVIA AND 38 YEARS IN AFGHANISTAN IS NOT THE SAME THING," HE REPLIED TO MY EXPRESSION OF SURPRISE). HE CAME FROM PAKTIA PROVINCE, ON THE BORDER WITH PAKISTAN (THE PUSHTUNS HOLD ALL MAIN OFFICES IN THE GOVERNMENT), WHERE HE FINISHED HIS SCHOOLING. HE ATTENDED THE KHARBI SHVARZAY ((SPELLING OF NAME AS PUBLISHED)) MILITARY SCHOOL AFTER WHICH HE GRADUATED AT THE SCHOOL FOR COMMANDOS AND COMPLETED SOME OTHER MILITARY COURSES. AFTER THAT HE WENT TO THE USSR WHERE HE OBTAINED A DIPLOMA AT A SPECIAL SCHOOL FOR COMMANDOS, HE RETURNED HOME AND WENT THROUGH ALL MILITARY DUTIES OF A PROFESSIONAL OFFICER: FROM COMMANDER OF A PLATOON AND A DETACHMENT TO THE COMMANDER OF A BATTALION, REGIMENT, DIVISIONS, AND CORPS. IN KABUL, IT IS SAID THAT GEN TANAI IS A MEMBER OF THE KHALQ FACTION OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY (LIKE GEN GULABZOY).

DANAS: HOW DO YOU SEE THE PRESENT SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE SOVIET TROOPS HAS BEEN STOPPED?

TANAI: AS YOU KNOW, AFTER THE WITHDRAWAL OF A LIMITED CONTINGENT OF SOVIET TROOPS, THE ARMED EXTREMISTS CONTINUED THEIR FIGHT AGAINST THE STATE AUTHORITIES IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR STRENGTH AND MAKE THE MILITARY-POLITICAL SITUATION MORE DIFFICULT. THEY DO NOT RESPECT THE GENEVA AGREEMENT, BUT FIGHT AGAINST THE POLITICS OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. TODAY, THE COUNTERREVOLUTION IS IN FACT USING THOSE ARMED FORCES WHICH ARE AGAINST AFGHANISTAN'S PROGRESS. I ALSO THINK THAT THE ARMED OPPOSITION WILL INTENSIFY ITS ACTIVITIES AFTER THE COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF THE LIMITED CONTINGENT OF SOVIET UNITS FROM OUR COUNTRY. AS FAR AS AFGHANISTAN AND OUR FRIEND THE USSR ARE CONCERNED, WE FULLY RESPECT THE GENEVA AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, THE OTHER SIDE, PAKISTAN AND THE UNITED STATES, CONTINUE TO TRAIN, SUPPLY WITH ARMS, AND SEND ARMED BANDIT FORMATIONS TO AFGHANISTAN, IN VIOLATION OF THE GENEVA AGREEMENT.

DANAS: MEANWHILE, TO WHAT EXTENT HAVE THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OPPOSITION'S ARMED FORCES BECOME MORE INTENSIVE, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE GENEVA AGREEMENT?

TANAI: IT COULD BE SAID THAT THE AMOUNT OF ARMS AND THE NUMBER OF ARMED CARAVANS TOGETHER WITH MATERIAL SUPPLIES SENT TO THE REBELS INCREASED BY SOME 30 PERCENT COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS MONTH. RECENTLY THERE HAS ALSO BEEN AN INCREASE IN SUPPLIES TO REBEL BASES LOCATED IN THE BORDER REGION. THE REBELS' ANTI-STATE PROPAGANDA HAS ALSO INTENSIFIED. THE OPPOSITION OFTEN SHELLS TOWNS AND SETTLEMENTS, AND MANY INNOCENT PEOPLE AND RECENTLY A LARGE NUMBER OF CIVILIANS HAVE BEEN KILLED. ALTHOUGH THE OPPOSITION FORCES ARE TRYING TO ACHIEVE UNITY IN THEIR OPERATIONS AGAINST THE STATE, THIS HAS NOT HAPPENED. IT SHOULD ALSO BE SAID THAT EVEN THE COMMANDERS OF THE REBELS, WHOSE UNITS ARE WAGING A BATTLE ON THE TERRITORY OF

AFGHANISTAN, CANNOT REACH AN AGREEMENT ON UNITY. AS REGARDS THE THEORETICAL QUESTIONS OF UNITY, NOT EVEN THEIR LEADERS, THAT IS TO SAY THE "ALLIANCE OF THE SEVEN" CAN HELP THEM IN THIS. I AM PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO SAY THAT THE REBELS DID NOT ACHIEVE THEIR AIMS DESPITE THE FACT THAT PAKISTANI MILITARY CIRCLES HAVE BEEN HELPING THEM BY GIVING THEM THE MOST MODERN WEAPONS.

/***** BEGINNING OF TAKE 002 *****/

REF: AU0402095589 ZAGREB DANAS SERBO-CROATIAN 20 DEC///MOST MODERN WEAPONS.

TEXT:

((TEXT)) DANAS: THEY NEVERTHELESS CAME VERY CLOSE TO SOME TOWNS, THEY EVEN OCCUPIED SOME OF THEM TEMPORARILY.

TANAI: IT IS IMPORTANT TO STRESS THAT AFTER THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE LIMITED CONTINGENT OF SOVIET UNITS FROM AFGHANISTAN, OUR ARMED FORCES DISPLAYED THE ABILITY TO CONDUCT INDEPENDENT AND SUCCESSFUL MILITARY OPERATIONS. WE ACHIEVED POSITIVE RESULTS. THE PLANS OF THE REBELS TO OCCUPY VARIOUS PARTS OF OUR COUNTRY FAILED THANKS TO THE ACTIONS OF OUR ARMY. THEY SUSTAINED SERIOUS LOSSES AND A LARGE AMOUNT OF WEAPONS AND COMBAT AND OTHER EQUIPMENT WAS CAPTURED. THE ARMY PRESENTED ITSELF IN ITS BEST LIGHT BY DISPLAYING COURAGE AND ENDURANCE. AS YOU KNOW, THE REBELS STATED THAT AFTER THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE LIMITED CONTINGENT OF THE SOVIET ARMY THEY WILL CAPTURE TOWNS SUCH AS JALALABAD AND GAZNI. I CAN ALSO MENTION THE EXAMPLE OF THE GARRISON IN THE TOWN OF KHOST ((SPELLING OF NAME AS PUBLISHED -- FBIS)). IN KHOST THERE ARE ONLY THE UNITS OF OUR ARMY AND THEY ARE SUPERBLY CARRYING OUT THEIR DEFENSE DUTIES. THE SAME APPLIES TO KANDAHAR, PAKTIA PROVINCE, AND KABUL. THE ROAD BETWEEN THE BORDER AND KABUL AND JALALABAD IS OPEN. TRANSPORT VEHICLES ARE MAKING THEIR WAY WITHOUT ANY DIFFICULTIES.

DANAS: IT WAS IN FACT ON THAT ROAD THAT SEVERAL DAYS AGO A GROUP OF JOURNALISTS HAD PROBLEMS. THEY WERE ALL WOUNDED.

TANAI: YES, THINGS LIKE THAT HAPPEN. THIS IS A RESULT OF REBELS' MEAN TACTICS, OF AMBUSH ATTACKS, MINES ON THE ROAD. THE REBELS, EVEN WHEN THEY ACHIEVE SOME INSIGNIFICANT SUCCESSES, TRY TO MAKE THEM SOUND LIKE GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS AND VICTORIES. I WANT TO STRESS THAT WE ARE PREPARING OUR ARMED FORCES TO BE ABLE TO COMPLETELY INDEPENDENTLY CARRY OUT ALL COMBAT TASKS AFTER THE COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET TROOPS FROM AFGHANISTAN. WE ARE CONSOLIDATING OUR POSITIONS AND GARRISONS, AND ARE STRENGTHENING THE LEVEL OF OUR ARMY'S COMBAT READINESS. OF COURSE, WE ARE ALSO TRYING TO ENSURE SAFE TRAVELLING ON OUR ROADS.

DANAS: IN YOUR ARMY THERE HAVE BEEN CASES OF DESERTION. ARE WE TALKING ABOUT A GREAT NUMBER AND IS THIS WORRYING?

TANAI: THERE ARE DESERTERS IN EVERY ARMY, ESPECIALLY DURING A WAR. WE HAVE THEM TOO, BUT THIS PHENOMENON IS NOT OF THE PROPORTIONS AS PRESENTED IN THE WEST'S MEDIA. TODAY, THE AFGHAN ARMY PERSONNEL IS WELL PREPARED, MORALLY AND POLITICALLY, AND IT HAS GREAT EXPERIENCE IN THE SERVICE AND IN COMBAT OPERATIONS. IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN A HIGH COMBAT SPIRIT IN THE ARMY, WE ARE WORKING ON MORALE, COMBAT, AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING.

DANAS: HOW HAS THE NEW SHORTER MILITARY SERVICE AFFECTED THE COMBAT MORALE OF AFGHAN SOLDIERS?

TANAI: QUITE WELL. THE SOLDIERS NOW KNOW EXACTLY HOW LONG THEY WILL HAVE TO STAY IN THE ARMY. THIS HAS A STABILIZING EFFECT ON THEIR COMBAT SPIRIT. BECAUSE OF THIS, I WOULD ONCE AGAIN LIKE TO STRESS THAT OUR ARMED FORCES ARE CARRYING OUT COMBAT OPERATIONS INDEPENDENTLY, THAT THEY ARE HOLDING THEIR POSITIONS, AND THAT IN 26 OUT OF 32 PROVINCES THERE ARE NOW NO LONGER ANY SOVIET SOLDIERS.

DANAS: RECENTLY IT WAS NOTICED FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT SURFACE TO SURFACE MISSILES OF THE SCUD B TYPE WERE BEING USED ON THE AFGHAN BATTLE FIELD. WHO HANDLES THESE PROJECTILES, AFGHAN OR SOVIET SOLDIERS?

TANAI: THE SCUD B MISSILES ARE HANDLED BY AFGHAN SOLDIERS. AT THE MOMENT THE SOVIET ARMY IS MAKING SOME VERY MODERN ARMS AVAILABLE TO US AND WE ARE QUITE CAPABLE OF USING THEM. OUR SOLDIERS HAVE GONE THROUGH CERTAIN COURSES AND SCHOOLS FOR SUCH MODERN EQUIPMENT AS THESE MISSILES.

DANAS: WHAT IS THE SITUATION WITH COMBAT AVIATION? SOVIET PRODUCED SU-7'S, MIG-21'S, AND MIG-23'S FLY IN THE AFGHAN AIR FORCE.

TANAI: YES, WE HAVE MODERN SOVIET AIRPLANES OF THE SUHOJ AND MIG TYPES....

DANAS: THE WESTERN PRESS HAS RECENTLY REPORTED THAT A PAKISTANI F-16 AIRPLANE SHOT DOWN TWO AFGHAN MIG-23'S. IS THIS TRUE?

TANAI: NO, THESE WERE AFGHAN TRANSPORT AIRPLANES WITH CIVILIAN PASSENGERS. THEY DEVIATED FROM THE ESTABLISHED ITINERARY AND WERE REALLY SHOT DOWN BY PAKISTANI FIGHTERS.

DANAS: HOW MANY SOLDIERS DO YOU HAVE UNDER YOUR COMMAND IN FACT? HOW BIG IS THE AFGHAN ARMY NUMERICALLY AT THE MOMENT?

TANAI: WE HAVE AS MANY SOLDIERS AS WE NEED. THAT IS AROUND 500,000 PEOPLE IN THE ARMED FORCES, WHICH MEANS THAT MEMBERS OF THE ARMY AND THE SEMI-MILITARY FORMATIONS ARE ALSO INCLUDED IN THIS NUMBER.

DANAS: HAVE YOU NOTICED ANY CHANGE IN PAKISTAN'S ATTITUDE TO YOUR ARMY NOW THAT BENAZIR BHUTTO HAS COME TO POWER?

TANAI: THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN PAKISTAN WILL DIRECTLY DEPEND ON THE DYNAMICS OF DOMESTIC EVENTS. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT ONE WILL BE ABLE TO SAY SOMETHING MORE SPECIFIC ONCE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TIME HAS PAST AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN COMPLETELY FORMED IN THAT COUNTRY.

DANAS: PAKISTAN RECEIVES A LOT OF AMERICAN MILITARY AID AND AID FOR OPPOSITION GROUPS WHO FIGHT AGAINST YOU ALSO COMES VIA THIS COUNTRY. WHAT DO YOU THINK, HOW MUCH OF THIS AID TO THE MUJAHIDIN DOES PAKISTAN KEEP FOR ITSELF?

TANAI: WELL, I THINK THE PAKISTANIS KEEP ONE HALF. YES, THEY TAKE ONE HALF FOR THEMSELVES.

/***** BEGINNING OF TAKE 003 *****/

REF: AU0402095589 ZAGREB DANAS SERBO-CROATIAN 20 DEC///HALF FOR THEMSELVES.

TEXT:

((TEXT)) DANAS: I NOTICED IN KABUL LAST YEAR THAT THE POLICY OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION OF PRESIDENT NAJIBULLAH WAS MORE PRONOUNCED. WHAT HAVE BEEN THE RESULTS OF THIS POLICY IN THE ALMOST 2 YEARS SINCE IT WAS ANNOUNCED?

TANAI: THE PROGRAM OF THE POLICY OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION IS BEING SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY ACHIEVEMENTS: IN THE POLITICAL SENSE, ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE, AND IN THE COUNTRY. AS AN EXAMPLE ONE CAN CITE THE RETURN OF REFUGEES, THE SWITCH OF SEVERAL BANDIT FORMATIONS ONTO THE SIDE OF THE STATE, AND SUPPORT FOR THIS POLICY FROM THE PEOPLE. IN SHORT, THE POLICY OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION HAS ALREADY HAD FAVORABLE RESULTS AND IS DEVELOPING SUCCESSFULLY.

DANAS: IN THE CONTEXT OF THIS POLICY: WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THE FORMER "ENEMIES" (("DUSMAN")) WHEN THEY SURRENDER?

TANAI: WE ARE BEING VERY ATTENTIVE TOWARD THEM. THERE IS A PLAN TO OFFER ECONOMIC AID TO THESE GROUPS. SOMETIMES WE TRANSFORM THEM INTO SMALL MILITARY FORMATIONS TO WHICH WE OFFER ALL THE NECESSARY AID. WE ARE CONSTANTLY WORKING WITH THEM IN BOTH THE PROPAGANDA AND POLITICAL SPHERE AND THIS WORK IS BEING DONE BY LOCAL ORGANS, MILITARY COMMANDERS, AND POLITICAL WORKERS.

DANAS: ARMED OPPOSITION GROUPS ARE RECEIVING AID FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES? FROM WHICH COUNTRY, IN YOUR OPINION, IS THE MOST AID COMING FROM?

TANAI: IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY PRECISELY WHICH COUNTRY IS GIVING MOST AID IN ARMS BUT IT IS NOT A SECRET THAT SOME WESTERN AND ARAB COUNTRIES ARE SENDING INFANTRY EQUIPMENT AS WELL AS HEAVY ARMS TO THE REBELS. THEY ARE RECEIVING ANTI-AIRCRAFT CANNONS, MISSILES, AMMUNITION, GRENADES, VARIOUS SORTS OF MINES, AND SO ON.

DANAS: WHAT SORT OF PROJECTILE HAS RECENTLY BEEN USED AGAINST KABUL CAUSING MANY CASUALTIES AMONG CIVILIANS?

TANAI: I THINK THAT THESE ARE CHINESE PROJECTILES LAUNCHED FROM MULTI-BARRELLED MISSILE LAUNCHERS BUT THERE ARE ALSO MISSILES FROM WESTERN COUNTRIES AND EVEN FROM CERTAIN ARAB STATES.

DANAS: FROM WHICH ARAB STATES?

TANAI: I WOULD NOT LIKE TO TALK ABOUT THAT NOW. YOU PROBABLY HAVE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE MISSILES.

DANAS: WHAT DO YOU PERSONALLY THINK AS DEFENSE MINISTER ABOUT SOME LEADERS OF OPPOSITION GROUPS, ABOUT MASOOD AND GULBUDDIN HIKMATYAR?

TANAI: GULBUDDIN HEKMATYAR IS ONE OF THE LEADERS OF THE "ALLIANCE OF SEVEN." HE FLED TO PAKISTAN AND HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW. GULBUDDIN USES TERROR AND STOPS ST NOTHING. IT IS NO SECRET THAT HE IS WORKING FOR THE CIA. THE SAME CAN BE SAID FOR AHMADSHAH ((SPELLING OF CHRISTIAN NAME AS PUBLISHED -- FBIS)) MASOOD. HE IS ONE OF THE MAIN LEADERS FOR THE FORMATION OF GROUPS IN THE ISLAMIC SOCIETY PARTY AND OPERATES IN THE PANJSHER VALLEY AND THE AREAS THAT SURROUND IT.

DANAS: WHAT KIND OF FUTURE DO THE "ENEMIES" OFFER TO AFGHANISTAN? IS IT A SYSTEM OF AYATOLLAHS, SIMILAR TO THE IRANIAN SYSTEM?

TANAI: SOME REGIONS OF AFGHANISTAN ARE AT THE MOMENT UNDER THE PARTIAL CONTROL OF THE REBELS. HERE THEY ARE CARRYING OUT INHUMANE

OPERATIONS AGAINST THE LOCAL POPULATION. HOWEVER, THEY CANNOT COME TO AGREEMENT AMONG THEMSELVES EVEN HERE. AN EXAMPLE IS THE KONARHA PROVINCE WHERE THE OPPOSITION GROUPS COULD NOT REACH AGREEMENT OVER THE DIVISION OF POWER AND LITERALLY FOUGHT EACH OTHER SO THAT THERE WERE MANY CASUALTIES.

DANAS: THAT MEANS THAT YOU ARE QUITE CERTAIN THAT YOU WILL SURVIVE IN POWER EVEN AFTER THE COMPLETE EVACUATION OF SOVIET SOLDIERS FROM AFGHANISTAN?

TANIA: OUR PARTY AND OUR GOVERNMENT ARE STRIVING TO RESOLVE THE AFGHAN PROBLEM BY POLITICAL MEANS. WE ARE ALSO USING MILITARY METHODS BUT WHENEVER WE CAN, WE GO FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION. AN EXPRESSION OF THIS IS OUR POLICY OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET UNITS, OUR ARMY HAS SHOWN THAT IT CAN SUCCESSFULLY CARRY OUT INDEPENDENT OPERATIONS, DEFEND INDIVIDUAL GARRISONS, AND SECURE COMMUNICATIONS. I BELIEVE THAT EVEN AFTER THE DEPARTURE OF SOVIET UNITS, OUR ARMY WILL BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT THE TASK THAT HAS BEEN PLACED BEFORE IT. IT IS TRUE THAT WE HAVE HAD LOSSES BUT THIS IS WAR AND THERE ARE LOSSES IN WAR. LOSSES ARE INEVITABLE BUT THE TASKS ARE BEING CARRIED OUT.

DANAS: YOU SAID THAT THERE ARE NO LONGER SOVIET SOLDIERS IN 26 OUT OF 32 PROVINCES IN AFGHANISTAN AND YOUR ARMY IS IN CONTROL OF THE SITUATION. HOWEVER, THE MUJAHIDIN ARE HERE OUTSIDE KABUL AND FIRING MISSILES AT THE TOWN AND AIRPORT.

TANAI: YES, THEY ARE OUTSIDE KABUL BUT THEY ARE SUFFERING GREAT LOSSES BECAUSE WE ARE CONSTANTLY ATTACKING THEM WITH EITHER ARTILLERY OR BY HELICOPTER AND AIRPLANE.

DANAS: THE OPPOSITION GROUPS CONTINUE TO RECEIVE AID FROM ABROAD. YOU SAY THAT YOUR ARMY IS IN CONTROL OF THE SITUATION BUT THE MUJAHIDIN ARE CROSSING YOUR BORDER, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT?

TANAI: OUR GOVERNMENT HAS PROCLAIMED THE BORDER AREA A PEACE ZONE. WE DID THIS SO THAT AFGHAN REFUGEES CAN FREELY RETURN HOME, SO THAT THEY DO NOT INSTIGATE MILITARY OPERATIONS THERE, AND SO THAT SOME OF OUR UNITS COULD WITHDRAW INTO THE INTERIOR OF THE COUNTRY. THAT IS OUR DECISION, DICTATED BY BOTH HUMANE AND STRATEGIC REASONS. YOU SEE, APART FROM THIS, OPPOSITION GROUPS ARE CARRYING OUT ARMED ACTION IN THIS REGION, IN WHICH CIVILIANS SUFFER. THIS IS THEIR TACTIC BUT WE DO NOT WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUFFERING OF INNOCENT PEOPLE. THEREFORE WE HAVE WITHDRAWN. I WANT TO STRESS TO YOU ONCE AGAIN THAT OUR AIM IS PEACE FOR ALL AFGHAN PEOPLE, PEACE IN THE COUNTRY, AND THE INDEPENDENCE OF AFGHANISTAN. WE WANT TO ACHIEVE THIS THROUGH POLITICAL MEANS BUT IF THIS IS NOT ENOUGH, MILITARY METHODS ALSO EXIST, OF COURSE.

ADMIN

(ENDALL) VMY12012.D57 20 DEC [REDACTED] 04/1006Z JAN
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